

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claims 4, 6 and 7 have been cancelled.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 4. By this Amendment, the allowable features of claim 4 have been incorporated into claim 1, and claim 4 has been cancelled.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) does not add any additional claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

An Election of Species was required between the Figures. Accordingly, Applicant elected Species I, Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5 and Species A, Fig. 2. Claims 1, 2 and 9 read on the elected Species. Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of claim 8 because claim 1 remains generic to claim 8.

The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 6-191238 (JP'238) in view of Ueyoko, U.S. Patent No. 5,885,387, has been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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